

Murther upon Murther:

Being a Full and True

RELATION

Board and Bloody

MURTHUR

Mrs. Sarah Hodges, Wife of Mr. Thomas Hodges,
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, and Hannah Whistey,

The Loyal Coffee-House near West-Cross and the
end of East-Smith-field, on Saturday the 1st Instant January 1691.

Unpon the day aforesaid, about Twelve and Clock, to about two women that carries Ale and Beer to private Families, who came accidentally into a House called The Royal Coffee-House in Ratcliffe Highway, near the former, about business; when she came at the Door, the finding of it unbroken and locked, entered; where finding no body in the house, so she waited for some time, in expectation that some of the Family would come home, having tired her Patience, and seeing things lie about the Room in Dilorder, no Fire being kindled, &c. so she began to knock at all doors, and to call, but no body answering, till she went to the Neighbours, and they had seen any of the Hodges Family at home, which was Mistrels of the House; but they answering, intellit she could best desire some body to go along with her into the House, for she said, she found the Doors not locked, nothing was any Fire on the Ground, besides, calling and no body answered. The Neighbours admiring as

much as the Woman, what might be the cause that none of the Family appeared, entered the House; where passing through a Room or two, they came to a back Chamber, where they (to their great Astonishment) found Mrs. Sarah Hodges (Wife of Mr. Thomas Hodges) most Barbarously Murthered in her naked Bed, her Throat being cut, and the Right side of her Face and Neck mangled by the Instruments of the Orifice which his Fracture caused was at least two inches Diameter. This is supposed to have been done with a Hammer, or some such like Weapon, &c.

Then going into another Chamber, they found likewise Murthered in most Barbarous manner, one Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, a Lodge in the House aforesaid. She lay with her Arms clasped together, and her Face being upwards: whom the inhumane Murthers had Slabbed in the Ear, and wounded her in several places about her Head, that she lay as it were Swimming in her Blood; She was in her naked Bed likewise. And just by her Bed-side, lay Murthered on the Boards, Hannah Williams, the Maid Servant of the House. Against this poor Innocent, these Villains vied in their Cruelty in a large measure for they cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, and Slabbed her in just above the Collar-Bone: She was found in her Cloaths by the Bed-side of the aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, it is supposed that she was then going to Bed, but was put, by these execrable Villains, into an everlasting Sleep before she had time to call upon God for salvation.

The Husband of this Mrs. Hodges, is now at Sea, a Mate of a Ship, and little thinks what a Tragedy has been acted in his House; and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith is likewise much to be pitied, being a fair piece of Nature's handiwork, and wherein were displayed, the unparallel'd Workmanship of the Divine Creator, who always cut off by these inhumane, barbarous, and bloody Villains; but wished I had Eloquence to give them fitful Punishments. These brutes by Heaven's grace, after they had most barbarously dismembred These poor Creatures, took off Mrs. Hodges Gold Chain from her Neck, Rings from her Fingers, and cut her Ears to take out her Pendants; as they likewise served Mrs. Smith, and Robbed the House of every thing valuable in it, and then Escaped, without being discovered. Though we make no question, but as the Devil owns them, he will speedily pay them. villainous

and bad the Devil be very great with them, the Horrid Murtherers, that did these things before upon some Poor Innocents in the House of Captain Giddings (an account of which we have also given you) it might have Startled and deter'd them from performing such Execrable Villanies. But their Consciences

will tell them that they are given over by God Almighty, having not the Light of him before their Eyes, than they eagerly pursue the Devil's Chariot, with malignant, and no Remorse. Therefore of such as these, let all honest Christians beware, and (as much as in them lies) to shew them no quarter, and to expose them to the Law, and Justice of the Country, as guilty of such abominable, and horrid crimes, as these.

London Printed by C. Crum, at the Blue Bell in Threadneedle-street, 1691.